



**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

**REPORT FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2020**

**BY**

**THE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS UNIT**



**Kanifing Institutional Layout**

**P.O. Box 3504, Serekunda, the Gambia**

## Table of Contents

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms .....	3
Concepts and Definitions .....	4
Preface .....	5
Introduction.....	6
MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS .....	7
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES .....	7
IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS .....	7
EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS .....	9
EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS.....	10
IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES .....	10
TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS .....	11

## **List of Abbreviations and Acronyms**

ASYCUDA++	Automated System for Customs Data
CIF	Cost, Insurance and Freight
FOB	Free on Board
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GMD	Gambian Dalasi
GRA	Gambia Revenue Authority
HS	Harmonized System
IMTS 2010	International Merchandise Trade Statistics 2010
N.E. S	Not elsewhere specified
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

## Concepts and Definitions

**Monthly trade summary:** Includes imports, exports and re-exports and total exports disaggregated by month.

**Trade flow by selected continents and economic zones:** Is the value of trade between The Gambia and selected geographic and economic zones.

**Direction of trade:** Trade flows from and to main trading partners. The ranking is done based on highest ten by value in (GMD) and country.

**Trade flow by top ten products:** This indicates trade flows (import, exports, re-exports) by main products sorted based on the highest Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) or Free on Board (FOB) value in (GMD'000) at 2-digit Harmonised System product code which groups related commodities.

**Export trade:** The exports of merchandise goods are valued at F.O.B and it refers to all movable goods. Share of domestic exports to total trade is the value of all goods exported to the rest of the world divided by total trade multiply by 100.

**Import trade:** The value of imported goods includes the cost, insurance and freight (C.I.F). Share of imports to total trade is the value of all goods imported from the rest of the world divided by total trade multiply by 100.

## Preface

This report presents International Merchandise Trade Statistics of The Gambia (IMTS) for fourth quarter 2020. It aims to show the outlook of trade between The Gambia and its trading partners during the period under review. It could also serve as a catalyst to enhancing the investment drive of the country. The international merchandise trade statistics unit under the Directorate of Economic Statistics of the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), receives monthly raw trade data extracted from the Customs and Exercise Department of the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) Database (ASYCUDA++) in American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) format for processing using EUROTRACE<sup>1</sup>.

Data cleaning is continuous as various tables are produced to feed into the reports. The database is therefore, updated from time to time to take account of adjustments made from the input source i.e., GRA.

The report contains a wide range of trade statistics between The Gambia and its partners. This avails data users with information to facilitate planning and decision making. Data can be provided to users based on the level of breakdown requested up to six (6) or eight (8) digits according to the Harmonised commodity description and coding system (HS).

The quarterly report contains data on the Trade Balance, Imports and Exports by major trading. The latest quarterly reports can be accessed on the Gambia Bureau of Statistics' website ([www.gbosdata.org](http://www.gbosdata.org)). For users who have specific data needs, the international merchandise trade statistics Unit could offer the necessary assistance.

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics wishes to express its profound gratitude to the ASYCUDA++ (Automated System Customs Data) Unit of The Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA), for making available the necessary data for the compilation of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics. We hope that users will find this report useful.

Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang

Statistician General

---

<sup>1</sup> Eurotrace is the statistical software used by the external trade unit for data analysis. In July 1993 ECOWAS & UNCTAD developed Trace-nat under DOS OP System.

## **Introduction**

The International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) of The Gambia are compiled based on the 'General Trade System' as recommended by the United Nation Statistics Division (UNSD) in (IMTS) 2010 concepts and definitions manual. The main source of data is Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA). They record goods entering (imports) or leaving (exports) to/from The Gambia. That is, whether or not the imports at the time of importation are intended for domestic consumption or for re-exports.

Merchandise trade covers only trade in goods and excludes trade in services. The commodity classification is based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) 2017 tariff. The data presented in this report contains trade summary and other detailed information.

Trade summary covers the total imports, domestic exports, re-exports, total exports, total trade and balance of trade. The trade balance is the difference between total exports and total imports (i.e., total exports minus total imports), total exports is (domestic exports plus re-exports), and total trade is (total imports plus total exports).

## INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2020

### MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS

Table 1 below shows that the highest value of imports was registered in November with GMD2.4 billion. This is followed by December and October with GMD2.2 billion each. December registered the highest exports with GMD25.6 million, followed by October with GMD7.9 million, and the lowest value of exports was registered in November GMD2.7 million.

**TABLE 1: MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2020, VALUES  
GMD ('000)**

MONTHS	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
October	2,183,161	32.2	7,861	21.7
November	2,361,687	34.8	2,680	7.4
December	2,243,392	33.0	25,624	70.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,788,240</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>36,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC ZONES

Merchandise trade between The Gambia and selected continents and economic zones/blocs in table 2 shows that Africa has the highest value of imports with GMD2.7 billion. Out of which Ecowas contributed GMD2.6 billion (37.6%) of total imports. This is followed by European Union with GMD1.2 billion, Asia GMD1.6 billion and American GMD555.2 million. Exports from the Gambia mainly goes to by Africa with GMD21.3 million, followed by Asia with GMD10.8 million and Europe with GMD4.1 million.

**TABLE 2: IMPOTS AND EXPORTS BY SELECTED CONTINENTS/ECONOMIC  
ZONES FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2020, VALUES GMD ('000)**

PARTNER	IMPORTS	%	EXPORTS	%
AFRICA	2,674,574	39.4	21,298	58.9
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
ECOWAS	2,554,249	37.6	21,298	58.9
REST OF AFRICA	120,326	1.8	0	0.0
EUROPE	1,955,703	28.8	4,052	11.2
<i>OF WHICH</i>				
EU	1,166,144	17.2	2,693	7.4
ASIA	1,597,710	23.5	10,815	29.9
AMERICA	555,170	8.2	0	0.0
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>6,783,158</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>36,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>5,082</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,788,240</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>36,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 3 shows the imports value and share of Gambia's major trading partners for fourth quarter 2020. Overall, the highest values of imports were from Togo (*main product imported Mineral fuels*) and china (*main product imported is vehicles other than railway*) with GMD2.2 billion and GMD732,8 million respectively. Furthermore, it can be seen from the table that 76 per cent of total imports came from top ten trading partners while 23 per cent of imports came from the rest of the world.

**TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM TOP TEN COUNTRIES FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2020 VALUE (D'000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Togo	2,228,924	32.8
China	732,759	10.8
Turkey	404,952	6.0
Brazil	350,081	5.2
India	323,294	4.8
United Kingdom	269,458	4.0
Switzerland	264,628	3.9
Spain	219,939	3.2
Netherlands	196,569	2.9
United Arab Emirates	181,871	2.7
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>5,172,475</b>	<b>76.2</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,615,765</b>	<b>23.8</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>6,788,240</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS

Table 4 below shows Gambia's exports to top ten partners. Among the top ten partners Senegal (*main product exported fish and fish products*), China (*main product exported is oil seeds*) and Republic of Korea (*main product exported is cereals*) registered the highest values with GMD18.7 million (51.8%), GMD5.4 million (14.9%) and GMD2.4 million (6.7%) respectively. India had the lowest value of domestic exports with GMD697 thousand (1.9%). The results further shows that 96.2 per cent of total domestic exports went to the major trading partners while the remaining 3.8 per cent went to the rest of the world.

**TABLE 4: EXPORTS TO TOP TEN PARTNERS FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2020,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Senegal	18,736	51.8
China	5,395	14.9
Republic of Korea	2,409	6.7
Mali	2,250	6.2
Turkey	1,359	3.8
Malaysia	1,350	3.7
United Kingdom	1,066	2.9
Italy	794	2.2
Indonesia	744	2.1
India	697	1.9
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>34,799</b>	<b>96.2</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>36,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Table 5 below shows that imports of top ten major products for fourth quarter 2020 stood at GMD5.0 billion. Out of this, '*Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation...*', '*vehicles other than railway and 'cereals'...*', registered the highest values with GMD2.4 billion, GMD520.2 million and 491.3 million respectively. However, '*dairy produce, bird's eggs*' recorded the least value among the major imported products with GMD146.3 million (2.2%).

**TABLE 5: IMPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2020,  
VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,418,912	35.6
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	520,227	7.7
Cereals	491,267	7.2
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	362,272	5.3
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	252,324	3.7
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	217,064	3.2
Sugars and sugar confectionery	183,279	2.7
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	154,907	2.3
Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	146,279	2.2
Man-made filaments	119,802	1.8
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>4,866,332</b>	<b>71.7</b>

<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>1,921,908</b>	<b>28.3</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>6,788,240</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS

Exports of top ten major products as shown in table 6 below amounted to GMD36.2 million. Out of which, *fish and crustaceans*, and *oil seeds and oleaginous fruits* registered the highest share of exports with 49.4 per cent and 21.4 per cent respectively. The data further shows that ‘Electrical machinery’ recorded the least value with GMD66 thousand (0.2%).

**TABLE 6: EXPORTS OF TOP TEN PRODUCTS FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2020, VALUES  
GMD (‘000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>EXPORTS</b>	<b>%</b>
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	17,860	49.4
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	7,755	21.4
Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	7,593	21.0
Preparations of meat, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	938	2.6
Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, prepared waxes, polishing or scouring preps, candles & similar articles etc	744	2.1
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	637	1.8
Rubber and articles thereof	286	0.8
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	155	0.4
Ships, boats and floating structures	133	0.4
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	<b>66</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>36,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>36,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES

Table 7 below shows that imports of selected products consist of the most basic products/commodities consumed in The Gambia. Most often, these products record the highest import values among products imported by traders/importers.

Imports of selected basic products was dominated by rice with GMD402.0 million, followed by total cement GMD319.8 million out of which Portland cement registered GMD318.3 million and white cement with GMD1.5 million. Wheat or meslin flour imported also registered a significant amount of GMD246.3 million, sugar GMD166.5 million.

**TABLE 7: IMPORTS OF SELECTED BASIC COMMODITIES FOR FOURTH QTR 2020, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>IMPORTS</b>
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	58,842
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Potatoes	19,102
Onions and shallots	36,174
Rice	402,048
Wheat or meslin flour	246,295
Refined sugar cane	166,470
Total cement	319,836
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Portland cement	318,322
White cement	1,457
Tomatoes Paste	27,948
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	53,068
<i><b>OF WHICH</b></i>	
Alcohol	3,253
Vinegar	158,839
Mineral water	49,656
Milk and milk products	124,811
Eggs	21,410
Vegetable cooking oil	154,736

## **TRADE SUMMARY STATISTICS**

Table 8 below shows trade summary statistics on imports, exports and re-exports for fourth quarter 2020. The results shows that total trade stood at GMD6.9 billion with a trade deficit of GMD6.6 billion. As expected, imports far outweigh domestic exports since The Gambia is an import dependent country (97.8 % vs. 0.5 %) respectively.

**TABLE 8: TRADE SUMMARY FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2020, VALUES GMD ('000)**

<b>TRADE FLOW</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>%</b>
IMPORTS	6,788,240	97.8
EXPORTS	36,165	0.5
RE-EXPORTS	114,752	1.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	150,918	2.2
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	<b>6,939,158</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TRADE BALANCE</b>	<b>-6,637,323</b>	

